

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claims 8-10 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 13-27 have been amended to change their dependency to claim 8. New claims 43-48 have been added. Claims 43-48 respectively correspond to claims 13-15 and depend from claims 9 and 10, respectively. Claims 1-7, 29 and 30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the amendments, after final, is proper, because they place the application in condition for allowance. See M.P.E.P. § 714.12. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 8-28 and 31-48 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-7, 13-15, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,191,210 to Rosch et al. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot because claims 1-7, 29 and 30 have been canceled, and claims 13-15 now depend from claim 8, which is not included in the rejection.

II. Allowable Subject matter

It is indicated that claims 8-12 and 31-33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As noted above, claims 8-10 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 11, 12 and 31-33 depend from claim 8, 9 or 10. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and allow these claims.

III. New Claims

Newly added claims 43-48 depend from allowable claims 9 and 10, respectively, and thus are allowable.

IV. Conclusion

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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